

existing scheme of "Assistance to National Sports Federations". Action is separately underway for upgrading and strengthening the infrastructure for training purposes by the Sports Authority of India.

Monitoring of Economic Trends

194. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are monitoring the economic trends on a regular basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the comments of the Prime Minister in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The Government monitors various economic trends, such as gross domestic product (GDP), prices and inflation, money supply, international trade, balance of payments, etc. on a regular basis. The data on GDP are disseminated on a quarterly and annual basis by Central Statistical Organisation, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Different agencies are involved in monitoring the trends in specific sectors and in prices and inflation, viz. Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Labour and Reserve Bank of India. Money supply and balance to payments trends are monitored by the Reserve Bank of India, while the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics monitors the trends in imports and exports of commodities.

Squeezing of non-plan expenditure

195. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether Planning Commission is concerned about consequences of States' squeezing non-plan expenditure to bring down fiscal deficits;

(b) if so, whether no fresh recruitment in education and health sector by States to check their wage bill, programmes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and National Health Mission could become a sufferer;

(c) if so, whether the Commission is planning to take up the matter with States while finalising approach paper for Eleventh Plan; and

(d) if so, what steps Planning Commission is considering while finalising allocation for Eleventh Plan to States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir. Planning Commission is concerned about States reducing fiscal deficit by curbing non-plan developmental expenditure. Fiscal deficit reduction by the States has to be achieved both by growth in revenues as well as by curbing non-developmental expenditure. The reduction in fiscal deficit is not to be achieved by curbing development expenditure.

(b) to (d) Planning Commission has not envisaged to ban fresh recruitments in vital sectors like education and health. In so far as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is concerned the Project Approval Board of the Department of Elementary Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) allows appointment of additional teachers on the basis of the proposals submitted by the various State Govts. In the case of National Rural Health Mission (NHRM) a new band of community based functionaries, named Accredited Social Health Activist, an honorary volunteer who is compensated based on the services she has rendered in respect of a number of key health related activities and services outcomes in being appointed. The Mission also provides two Auxilliary Nurse Mid-Wives against one available at present in Sub Health Centres and Three staff Nurses against one available at present at the Primary Health Centres. The Mission has been envisaged to bridge the infirmities in rural health care through increased community ownership, decentralization of the programmes to the district levels, intersectoral convergence and improved primary health care. While the SSA is financed 75% by Govt. of India, the NRHM is provided 100% grant by Govt. of India. Therefore, programmes like Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and National Health Mission are not likely to suffer on account of States efforts to bring down fiscal deficits.

The Planning Commission had regional consultation meetings with all the States on the draft Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan.